UNIVERSAL SURGICAL MASK POLICY

In an effort to further reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19 among our workforce, patients, and community, UCSF Health will institute a more comprehensive universal surgical mask policy beginning 3/29/20 at 5:30 AM.

Community spread is the most important mechanism of COVID-19 transmission. Social distancing is the most important public health approach to reduce the spread. In our clinical care environment, we have adopted physical distancing policies and procedures. However, it still can remain a challenge to ensure such distancing with the large workforce in our clinical care facilities. With our current supply of surgical masks, we can now further add to our infection control procedures through a comprehensive surgical mask program.

Upon Arrival:

- When entering any clinical care building (including hospitals UCSF Medical Center at Parnassus, Mt. Zion, Mission Bay, UCSF Benioff Children's Hospitals San Francisco and Oakland and clinics), **All Staff, Faculty, Trainees and Visitors**, will complete the screening procedure and then obtain a surgical mask. Employees who work in small, off-site clinics will receive them from their manager.

- **Patients** may be offered a mask but are not required to wear one unless they have any respiratory symptoms.

- Surgical mask should be worn **ALL DAY** when inside a clinical care building.

- Every effort should be made to **keep the mask clean and dry**.

- It is OK to wear same universal surgical mask in all patient care unless N95 is required.

- If the mask becomes **wet or soiled**, it can be replaced in your department.

- Mask **re-use is permitted** the following day if it is clean, dry and had been worn for less than a few hours.

- Some people may be wearing **homemade cloth face coverings** upon arrival, these are **not permitted** in our clinical facilities and must be exchanged for a surgical mask.

This new policy for universal mask use in our clinical care buildings should help us to further reduce the COVID-19 transmission risk in our environment.

**It is imperative that we all remain vigilant in our efforts to conserve all our personal protective equipment. The best ways to do this are to:**

1. Faithfully follow our PPE policies
2. Implement the extended use and re-use processes outlined in our guidelines
3. Take good care of our PPE when in use to avoid damage or loss.

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PRO TIPS FOR EXPERT SURGICAL MASK SKILLS

Clean hands before & after touching MASK

MASK should always cover nose and chin

Remove & store MASK before eating or drinking

Avoid touching MASK

Wear inside facing you and metal piece pressed onto nose bridge

Discard if MASK becomes wet or soiled

Re-use during the shift and the following day if mask is kept dry and clean

UCSF Health

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